



## ParraPals Newsletter Vol 5, No: 10, October 2011

### President's message

**W**ell, here we are at Annual General Meeting time again.

I do hope you can all make it to the AGM on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October as it's your chance to vote for new committee members and to receive reports on the past year from your president, secretary, treasurer and training co-ordinator.

As well as the AGM we will have a presentation on a ParraConnect project called "Mobile Concierge".

So come along and find out what it's all about, and have a cuppa and some cake.

Some of us went to the ABC's program Q and A and had a great time. Our social outings always seem to be fun, so try to join us next time – I promise you won't be sorry.

Margaret T and I did a presentation on our club to residents of our retirement village which was well received and some of those present have joined and others have indicated their intention to do so.

If you know of a group which might be interested in hearing about our club, let me know and we'll see if we can give them a presentation.

And remember that you can invite any friends or colleagues to come to any of our monthly members' meetings as they are free and open to anyone.

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Our Apple courses are now up and running and we have just heard that the Commonwealth Government has approved our grant to purchase two Apple computers and a data projector.

This will enable us to start expanding our Apple courses.

It has been suggested that "Tablets" (like iPads) are the next big thing in computing.

If you would like to attend an information session on tablet computing, let us know and we'll schedule a time for one.

In fact, in November, our guest speaker will be showing us a software program for tablet computers which makes using them for emails, sharing photos, video calling, and much more, very very easy.

I'll see you all at the AGM, I hope.

Regards

John Moxon  
[Johnmoxon1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnmoxon1@gmail.com)

## Term 3 courses

Day/ Time	Dates	Course	Hours	Cost
Fridays 1.00-3.15pm	Oct 28; Nov 25	<b>MAC Special Interest Group</b>	2	N/A
Fridays 12.30-2pm	Oct 21;	<b>Genealogy Special Interest Group</b>	1.5	N/A
	Nov 18	<b>Digital Photos SIG</b>	1.5	N/A
Mondays 9.30-11.45am	November 14,21, 28; Dec 5, 12	<b>Beyond Basics- Windows 7</b>	10	\$40
Mondays 1.00 – 3.15pm	November 14,21, 28; Dec 5,12	<b>Beginners - Windows 7</b>	10	\$40
Tuesday 9.30-11.45am	November 15,22, 29; Dec 6,13	<b>Create-A-Card Platinum 8</b>	10	\$40
Tuesdays 1.00 - 3.15pm (5 wks)	November 15,22, 29; Dec 6,13	<b>Beyond Basics- Windows 7</b>	10	\$40
Wednesdays 9.30-12.30 (4wks)	November 23,30; Dec 7, 14	<b>Email &amp; Internet Beyond the Basics</b>	10	\$40
Wednesday 1.00 -4.00pm (2.5 hrs 4 wks)	November 23,30; Dec 7, 14	<b>XP</b>	10	\$40
Thursday 9.30 -11.45am	November 24 ONLY	<b>Beginners – Apple MAC</b>	2	\$10
Thursday 9.30 -11.45am	December 1 ONLY	<b>Facebook – Beyond Basics</b>	2	\$10
Thursday 9.30 -11.45am	December 8 ONLY	<b>Beginners – Apple MAC</b>	2	\$10
Thursday 1.00-3.15pm (4 wks)	November 24; Dec 1,8,15	<b>Travel and family blogs (digital diary)</b>	8	\$30

Book now at reception 9806 5030 (club hours only), Margaret on 9636 7752 (h). There is no answering machine at the office.

### Payments

Most people pay for their courses and membership via cash or cheque made out to Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors. We don't have EFTPOS capacity.

However, if you wish to pay by Electronic Funds Transfer, you should email our treasurer, Hazel Labka on [treasurer@parramattacps.org.au](mailto:treasurer@parramattacps.org.au) first so that she knows about it, so that she can tell you the account number. You must also remember to put a reference on your online payment so Hazel knows who is making the payment and for what.

## New members

Welcome to the following members joining in September:

- Dal Brown
- Don & Marie Hughes
- Lesley Laham
- Susan Papierz
- Jill Patterson
- Maria Pennetta
- Joy Stripp

## Grant success – Apple MACs



Last week, we were notified that we had been successful with our latest grant application – a bid for \$4927 from the Commonwealth Volunteer Grants. We asked for funding to purchase two Apple MACs and another data projector.

So in the next few days, we will be purchasing an iMac 21.5-inch 2.5GHz and a MacBook Pro 15-inch 2.2GHz. We will also purchase the data projector.

Our MAC Special Interest group members will be pleased!

Only problem – where are we going to fit them? We are running out of space. Maybe we'd better cancel morning teas??? (Would we dare?).

## Q & A participation

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 11 members parked at Marist High School at Westmead, ready to join a group of schoolboys and their teachers for a trip into the ABC Studios at Ultimo.



Our crew on the bus

And what a night it was. Participants had been asked to submit questions related to the topic Religion and Politics. Tony Jones and his team at Q & A generally receive well over 200 questions, and only about 10 are chosen, and due to time constraints, some of those miss out.



But John Moxon's question, on Euthanasia and disability was chosen, and he had a great opportunity to ask the question, and Tony Jones gave him four opportunities to state his case, between panellists responses.

Val Craig took the photo (above) from the ABC's iView download. Thanks Val.

## More health troubles



Hazel (in pink) with students

We are down two trainers this term, one of them – Hazel Labka – due to hospitalisation for revision surgery on her knee. Hazel was one of those people who received a faulty implant.

Hazel will be admitted to Sydney Private Hospital on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> for surgery and expects to be out of action for some weeks. She will, unfortunately miss the AGM, but never fear, all her Treasurer's work has been completed.

We had to cancel the PowerPoint and Photos Online courses which Hazel had been due to run. John Moxon will take up one of the vacant spaces to run some XP training.

We wish Hazel well for a speedy recovery.



Michael and Noelene with John on a ferry trip.

And Noelene Myers, Michael's wife is currently in Ryde Hospital, and

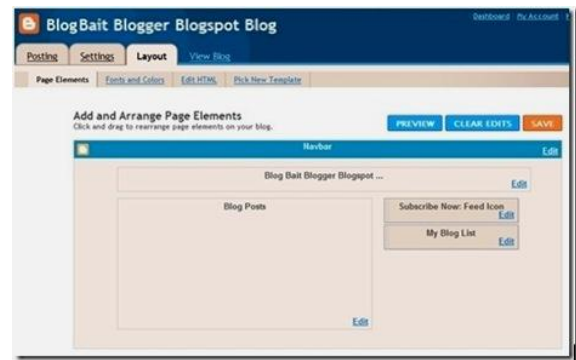
ordered bed rest for up to six weeks so that her fractured leg will heal. This is her second admittance to hospital after a too early discharge last month. So go easy on Michael for the next few weeks, students – he is batching, in between hospital & respite visits.

## Explaining our courses

### Travel & Family Blogs

Blogs are becoming very popular these days – they are used not only by individuals, whether they think of themselves as writers or not, but also by large and small organisations.

The word “blog” is short for Web\_log, and is a daily or less frequent diary or journal of happenings or musings. Here is the Google blogspot tool, which is an easy way to create your personal blog.



Blogs generally include text and photos and are extremely easy to put together and publish on the web, as long as you have some word processing skills, and hopefully some digital photography skills. And of course can organise your files and folders!.

Some of our members are enthusiastic bloggers – at least in short bursts. We have an official blog for Parramatta Computer Pals – you can navigate straight to it from our website by clicking “Read our blog” or by going

straight to

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com/>

John and I have written travel blogs – for instance about our recent trip family research journey to South Australia and Victoria – here it is:

<http://homerhyundai2011.blogspot.com>

Vice president Deborah Martin has written a number of blogs about her travels and about her choral singing.

Here is one of Deborah's:

<http://deborah-on-the-road-again.blogspot.com/>

These blogs are all created with Google's Blog templates which suits us because most of our students have Google accounts. There are three vacancies in this class. **Why not join us?**

## ASCCA Conference

*13th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors*



There is still time to book for the ASCCA conference. The cost (discounted for our members) is \$80 for one day or \$120 for two days. No courses have been scheduled for those two days, Wed-Thurs 16-17<sup>th</sup> November. So do join us. It is always well worthwhile and we have had excellent feedback from our many members who have attended in past years.

This is ASCCA's 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference, and this year will be held at the Sydney Rydges Hotel in Pitt Street.

You will find the application form on the ASCCA website at

[www.ascca.org.au](http://www.ascca.org.au)

## Tips and Tricks

### Re-naming multiple files

Did you know that you can re-name multiple files at once?

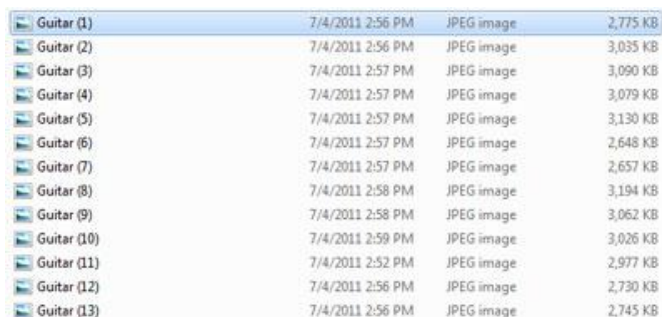
It's possible! So next time you have a bunch of files, folders, or pictures with names like DSC\_5678 and want to rename them in a more uniform way, do this:

Highlight all the files/folder in question...



**Right-click, choose Rename and call it something that best describes them.** For example, I had a bunch of pictures of a guitar, so I just renamed it "Guitar".

Voila! A uniform naming convention!



From [www.worldstart.com](http://www.worldstart.com) with permission.

## Constitution Hill presentation

In mid September, six club members who are our fellow residents at the Constitution Hill Retirement Village helped us with organising and catering.

So take a bow Keith South, Elaine Muddle, Nancy Harris, Shirley Edwards, Val Craig and Ken Miles.

## Our sponsors

### DCA Computers

Unit 4/8 Victoria Avenue  
Castle Hill NSW 2154

Phone: 9634 2555

[sales@dcacomputers.com.au](mailto:sales@dcacomputers.com.au)

[www.dcacomputers.com.au](http://www.dcacomputers.com.au)

Meanwhile, members continue to report good feedback about Robert DelVecchio's **InHome Media** which they have used satisfactorily to fix computer problems in their own home. Phone Robert on 1300 658847 or 0425 202 655.

## Useful websites

<http://www.abc.net.au/iview/>

Watch programs you missed during the week on ABC TV.

## Dates for Your Diary

### Term dates

- Second half Term 4 courses start 14<sup>th</sup> November
- Term 4 finishes Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### Monthly meetings

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 9.30am (AGM)
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am

### Outings

- Genealogy/Digital Photography Field Trip Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

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## Special Interest Groups

- MAC SIG meets 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1pm
- Genealogy SIG meets 18<sup>th</sup> November, 12.30pm

## ASCCA events

- 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference – 16-17<sup>th</sup> November at Rydges Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, Sydney.



## Christmas Party

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December,  
12-2pm in the Dan Mahoney Room

## Our website, blog & Facebook

[www.parramattacps.org.au](http://www.parramattacps.org.au)

<http://parrapals.blogspot.com>

Facebook group (Join) AND Facebook page (Like): Parramatta Computer Pals for Seniors ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

Email:

[secretary@parramattacps.org.au](mailto:secretary@parramattacps.org.au)

Till next time. *Margaret*